

# Utah's pioneers suffered incredible hardships

16 Apr 1987

By LISA MOTE

Herald Staff Writer

New information on the 33 pioneers whose remains were excavated from a downtown Salt Lake City construction site shows many may be closely related.

Asa Nielson, Brigham Young University adjunct professor of anthropology who directed the excavation, said experts at the University of Wyoming identified genetic similarities among some of the remains that would indicate the people were closely related — at least third or fourth cousins.

Dr. George Gill, a forensics anthropologist, and other experts in Wyoming reconstructed the skull of one woman and using a method researchers believe is 90 to 95 percent accurate, made a bust of the woman's face, Nielson said.

Through matching Gill's studies of the age, sex and cause of death on the remains with records, journals and diaries of the early pioneers, workers have been able to put names on some of the remains, he said.

Some of the identifications that experts feel are fairly accurate include Nancy O'Neil Rich, the first woman buried in the Salt Lake Valley, and her two grandchildren, Eliza Ann and Laura E. They are also fairly sure they have the remains of Luther G. Shurtleff.

In addition, they found a woman and a child that fit descriptions of a woman and infant who died during birth, he said.

Another grave had two infants in a casket with their arms wrapped around each other. The remains were so delicate workers cut out dirt and all to send to Gill. It was too delicate even for him, however, so he sent it to a third party, Nielson said.

Meanwhile, researchers in Salt Lake City found a mid-wife's diary account of a call to Henefer, Summit County, but she was too sick to go. The account said the



Steve Olsen Photo

Members of the BYU staff, including Asa Nielson (middle) and Don Southworth (right), an anthropologist, arrange the remains of one of Utah's first settlers in a box for burial in Salt Lake City at Pioneer State Park.

woman gave birth to twins "that grew together."

"We didn't know what that meant," he said. Then the woman studying the infants' remains, af-

ter spending three months excavating them, concluded the two infants were conjoined at the skull (Siamese twins). Since odds against Siamese

twins being born in the valley at that time are astronomical, officials concluded that those remains matched the record in the diary.

Research also shows the cemetery was arranged with the adults in the center and children around the edges, which shows workers found most or all of the burials.

Many pioneers Nielson and his group had expected to find among the group in the cemetery had to be eliminated because none of the remains were of the right age and sex, he said.

Off a list of about 50 possibilities, they were able to eliminate about 11 because of information on age, sex and cause of death.

In addition, some of the descriptions by Gill do not match any of the names on the list.

Gill's research, however, shows the cemetery may have been used primarily for family burials. That information will help the BYU group narrow its research, Nielson said.

Unfortunately, however, after workers finish transferring remains and sending them to Pioneer Trails State Park near the mouth of Immigration Canyon for reburial, all work will be put on hold, he said.

Already the group has used \$23,000 more than they were given to excavate and research the burials, Nielson said. Another \$30,000 will be needed to complete the research and work on the prehistoric Fremont Indian artifacts also found at the site. One of the 34 human remains found was an Indian.

University archaeologists were at 2200 N. Canyon Road today and will be there again Friday transferring the human remains from museum curation boxes to caskets.

Descendants of some of the pioneers were expected to be on hand to view the remains. The caskets will be sent to Salt Lake City to be reburied in concrete vaults in a specially-prepared section of the Pioneer Trails State Park.

Nielson said the official reburial and rededication of the graves will be toward the end of May. From now on, any pioneer remains uncovered in the area will be reburied in the vaults with

(See PIONEERS, page 6)



SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Students fought with police as anti-government protests were held on 24 campuses across the country today following an overnight crackdown by authorities against dissidents.

At Sogang University in Seoul, witnesses said about 600 students hurled scores of firebombs and stones at police who used tear gas. The students shouted slogans such as "down with dictatorship," the witness said, along with calls for the United States to stop supporting the government of President Chun Doo-hwan.

The witnesses said at least 10 students were injured, including two who sustained head injuries after being hit by tear gas grenades. The newspaper Chosun Ilbo said at least nine students were arrested.

Student sources and newspaper reports said more than 13,

## People

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Both sides in the "Twilight Zone" manslaughter case rested their cases Wednesday — the 100th day of testimony — and the judge ordered final arguments to begin next week.

"Ladies and gentlemen, at this time you have heard all the evidence," Superior Court Judge Roger Boren told jurors who had heard nearly eight months of testimony about the movie accident that killed actor Vic Morrow and two children.

Attorneys on both sides, saying they were relieved to see an end in sight for the trial, said they would end Thursday in court arguing over jury instructions.

Although Boren told jurors to return for final arguments Monday, attorneys said it was likely that jury instruction discussions would not conclude by then and the arguments would be delayed until Tuesday. The lawyers estimated at least a week of final arguments before the case goes to the jury.

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last fall against CIA recruiters at the University of Massachusetts.

The six-member jury announced the verdict to a courtroom packed with 130 spectators about three hours after they began deliberations. Hampshire County District Court Judge Richard Cannon cleared the chamber after the reading of the first verdict was greeted with thunderous applause.

"The people of Northampton, a jury of six in Northampton, have

Jim McAllister, a spokesman for St. Luke's Medical Center, said Wednesday, "He a patient. What he's in for, I don't know."

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daughter of former President Jimmy Carter said as she left the courthouse.

"I don't know what is in the future, but I am sure I am going to be involved in this sort of thing for the rest of my life," she added.

Miss Carter said her father had called her Tuesday night to wish her luck.

election system until his successor is chosen next year.

The opposition claims the current electoral college system for selecting the president is weighted in favor of Chun's party, and has been pushing for a constitutional amendment to allow direct presidential elections.

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